

Claim Amendments:

1. (Original) A needle pouch (2), particularly for knitting machine needles (5), comprising

a first strip (12a) of flexible material; the width of the first strip (12a) is greater than the width of a needle set (6) and its length is greater than the length of a knitting machine needle (5),

a second strip (12b) of flexible material; the width of the second strip (12b) is greater than the width of the needle set (6),

the second strip (12b) lies face-to-face on a portion (14) of the flat-disposed first strip (12a), and

at least two strip-shaped connecting regions (21, 22), by means of which the second strip (12b) is connected to the first strip (12a) under the formation of a pouch (18).
2. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that a lid portion (23) of the strip (12a) is folded over the second portion (12b) and the pouch (18) and/or is releasably secured to the second portion (12b) and/or to the pouch (18).
3. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the flexible material from which the strip (12a, 12b) is made, is paper.
4. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the flexible material from which the strip (12a, 12b) is made, is a plastic.
5. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the flexible material from which the strip (12a, 12b) is made, is a laminated material.

6. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the first strip (12a) and the second strip (12b) constitute a coherent strip (12) and adjoin one another along a fold line (16).
7. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the first strip (12a) and the second strip (12b) are regions of one and the same coherent strip (12).
8. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the fold line (16) extends transversely to the longitudinal direction of the strip (12) from one edge to another edge thereof.
9. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the fold line (16a) is parallel to the longitudinal direction of the first strip (12a).
10. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the connecting regions (21, 22) are adhesive locations.
11. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the connecting regions (21, 22) are weld locations.
12. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the connecting regions (21, 22) are crimped locations.
13. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the connecting regions (21, 22) border the edge of the strip (12) and the pouch (18) enclosed between the two connecting regions.
14. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the width of the pouch (18) equals the width of the needle set (6).

15. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 14, characterized in that the knitting machine needles (5) of the needle set (6) are held together by the pouch (18) in a parallel alignment with their lateral surfaces in mutual engagement.
16. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the length of the pouch (18) equals the length of the needle shanks (7).
17. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that an adhesive location is provided for releasably securing the lid portion (23).
18. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that an adhering tab (26) or a seal is provided for releasably securing the lid portion (23).
19. (Original) The needle pouch as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the length of the second strip (12b) is less than the length of a knitting machine needle (5).
20. (Currently Amended) A needle package comprising ~~at least one~~ a needle pouch (2) as defined in ~~any one of the foregoing claims~~ claim 1 and a box (3) for receiving the needle pouch (2).
21. (Original) The needle package as defined in claim 20, characterized in that the box is a plastic box.
22. (Original) The needle package as defined in claim 20, characterized in that the box has an inner space, whose base outline corresponds to the outer contour of the needle pouch (2).

23. (Original) A method of packaging elongated, flat elements, such as knitting machine needles (5), comprising the following steps:

gathering several elements into a group (6) in which the elements lie laterally against one another,

placing the group (6) on a mid portion (14) of a strip (12) of flexible material and holding the elements together,

folding a portion (15) of the strip (12) of flexible material onto the elements,

attaching the folded-over portion (15) of the strip (12) at both sides of the elements up to the elements under the formation of a pouch (18), and

closing the pouch (18) by folding over a lid portion (23) of the strip (12) and attaching the lid portion (23) to the packaging.

24. (Original) The method as defined in claim 23, characterized in that the strip (12) is cut from an endless web before positioning the elements thereon.
25. (Original) The method as defined in claim 23, characterized in that the strip (12) is cut from an endless web after positioning the elements thereon.